

decisions, but that the whole question of appeal procedure under the Health Insurance and the Widows' Pensions Acts will shortly come up for review.

The Home Secretary is advised that he has no power to give retrospective application to the regulations for granting compensation to men disabled by silicosis.

There is not sufficient evidence to warrant a general conclusion about the effect on health of work in basement rooms by clerks and warehouse staffs, and Mr. Chamberlain cannot promise a special investigation at present, but he remarks that local authorities have power to deal with insanitary conditions.

## Obituary.

### JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, M.D., D.P.H.,

Late Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Lambeth.

THE public health world in particular and his many friends heard with deep regret of the death of Dr. Joseph Priestley on December 15th.

Joseph Priestley, who was a descendant of the discoverer of oxygen, was born in 1859, and received his medical education at Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M., in 1883, obtaining the diploma M.R.C.S.Eng. in the same year. He proceeded M.D. with honours in 1886, and four years later became D.P.H.Camb. He devoted himself at first to clinical practice, and held the posts of house-surgeon to the Royal Infirmary at Manchester, clinical assistant to the Brompton, Great Ormond Street, and Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospitals, and intern at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. After a period of private practice at Twickenham he went to Camberwell as medical officer of health, and subsequently became medical officer and public analyst to the borough of Leicester. There he made a name for himself by courageous and effective reforms, and so reached Lambeth in 1895 with a reputation already high.

Here, for thirty-two years, his exceptional energy and ability found suitable outlets in the control, or development, of many great health measures. He was prominent in stamping out a serious small-pox epidemic, which invaded the metropolis in 1902, in so far as Lambeth was concerned. He took an active part in closing many dilapidated and worn-out properties, and attending, as an expert witness, various public inquiries with regard to condemned areas. He promoted the establishing of dispensaries for tuberculosis, and conducted investigations with regard to food poisoning. He brought about the provision of many welfare centres throughout the borough, and also a maternity home and a milk depot. When he retired last year he was presented by his medical colleagues and friends in Lambeth with a silver salver as a token of their warm regard for him and high estimation of his services.

Never parochially minded, he had a wide range of interests. He was a foreign member of the Société d'Hygiène, and a Fellow and lecturer of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He had also held the appointments of assistant examiner in hygiene, South Kensington, lecturer on hygiene to the Jenner Institute, honorary secretary to the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and lecturer to the St. John Ambulance Association. His work lives on in the memory of his many admirers, and Lambeth is his best testimonial.

### THE LATE DR. J. McASKILL HENDERSON.

DR. H. E. MAGEE (Aberdeen) writes:

The untimely death of Dr. John McAskill Henderson has spread a gloom over a wide circle both in this country and in Kenya, and has cut short a life full of great promise. As a student in the University of Edinburgh he had a distinguished career, graduating in arts, science, and medicine. He was prominent in the social life of the University, and was for varying periods president of the S.R.C., the Union, and of the Celtic Society. During the war he was employed as a chemist in a munition factory, having been rejected for military service. After graduating in 1922 he engaged for some time in general practice in Glasgow, and then decided to take up research as a career. He came to the Rowett Institute at the end of 1923, and worked on the effects of ultra-violet light on

metabolism, and on problems connected with lactation. He had just begun to investigate the metabolism of iodine when he went out to Kenya with other medical and agricultural graduates from Aberdeen, in charge of the medical team to conduct an inquiry into nutritional problems in that colony. His work there was characterized by the same enthusiasm, thoroughness, and sound judgement as had been the case in Aberdeen, and it has thrown a new light on many problems concerning the health of the native. He had just concluded his experiments, and was about to leave for Aberdeen to attend to the publication of his results, when he contracted the disease which proved fatal. While his results remain as a contribution to medical science, the ideas derived from them by a foreseeing and constructive mind lie buried with him. Henderson had a remarkable flow of English at his command, both in its written and spoken form. He was always precise and lucid. His published articles are a delight to read, and his ability as a speaker will be long remembered. He was a man of extremely wide interests and of great broadness of mind. He was well versed in literature, music, and art, and was himself no mean exponent with the brush and pencil. His ready wit, his great fund of anecdotes, and amiable personality will be missed in the many social gatherings he attended. Great sympathy is felt for his young widow and his relatives.

DR. FRANCIS W. E. HARE died at Beckenham on December 9th at the age of 72. He was born in Dublin, and from Fettes College, Edinburgh, went to study medicine in London, first at St. Thomas's Hospital and afterwards at St. Mary's. He obtained the M.R.C.S.Eng. diploma in 1879, and the M.B. degree of the University of Durham in 1884, proceeding M.D. in 1891. After some years in Australia, where he acted as medical superintendent of Charters Towers Hospital, resident medical officer of the Brisbane General Hospital, and inspector of civil hospitals in Queensland, Dr. Hare returned to England in 1904, and became medical superintendent of the Norwood Sanatorium, a post he held for over twenty years. The fruits of his wide experience in the care of patients suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction were set out in a book published in 1912 under the title *Alcoholism: Its Clinical Aspects and Treatment*. An earlier work from his pen, the *Food Factor in Disease*, was published in two volumes in 1905.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. DONALD CLARK, at Sydney, on October 12th. Dr. Clark, who received his medical education at Glasgow, and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1908, settled in Salonika after the war, where he was consulting medical officer to the British consul. He devoted himself unsparingly to the medical supervision of the large number of refugees who went to this town, particularly after the Smyrna disaster, and was appointed director of the Harman Keui Hospital, which was opened for them. The incessant strain of the work and chronic malarial disease took a heavy toll of his strength, and he never regained full health, though he was able to do a certain amount of medical work when he left Greece and went to live in Sydney two years ago.

## The Services.

THE Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Officers' Decoration has been awarded to Surgeon Commander L. S. Ashcroft.

### ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE PRIZES.

THE following prizes have been awarded to the officers of the last Junior Officers' Class at the Royal Army Medical College.

Herbert Prize (for highest aggregate): Lieutenant E. S. S. Lucas, I.M.S. (St. Thomas's). First Montefiore Prize in Military Surgery: Lieutenant E. S. S. Lucas, I.M.S. Second Montefiore Prize in Military Surgery: Lieutenant G. L. Grieve, R.A.M.C. (Glasgow University). Ranald Martin Prize in Tropical Medicine: Lieutenant M. R. Sinclair, I.M.S. (Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's). Parkes Memorial Prize in Hygiene: Lieutenant G. L. Grieve, R.A.M.C., and Lieutenant H. W. Farrell, I.M.S. (University College, Dublin) (equal). Tulloch Memorial Prize in Pathology: Lieutenant A. T. H. Marsden, R.A.M.C. (University of Durham). Fayer Memorial Prize in Pathology: Lieutenant V. E. M. Lee, I.M.S. (R.C.S., Ireland). Marshall Webb Prize (Medical Administration): Lieutenant A. T. H. Marsden, R.A.M.C.